country, where these exchanges have since been set up so far and by when the whole rural area is likely to be covered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) The Government has recently announced that it will be adding on the average one rural electronic telephone exchange of CDOT design per day in the country.

Earlier, about 800 Strowger type rural automatic exchanges were commissioned in 1986-87, giving an average of 2.3 exchanges per day. Thus, what is proposed is to step up the opening of rural automatic exchanges to about 3 a day.

At present, Strowger Exchanges are being installed in capacities of 25, 50 and 100 lines The new CDOT RAX of electronic type has a capacity of 88 lines. It is, therefore, proposed to use it in the first instance to replace the existing Strowger exchanges with working connections between 35 to 60 lines. The existing Strowger exchanges will then be re-installed in similar stations.

The first prototype exchange of the CDOT RAX has been installed at Kittur in Karnataka. Another prototype exchange has been installed at Churhat in Madhya Pradesh.

These exchanges are generally functioning satisfactorily. But, as is to be expected, in any new designs, there have been some teething problems which are being taken care of in a coordinated effort between CDOT, ITI and DOT.

It is expected that regular production of CDOT RAXs will start flowing from April, 1988 onwards and it will be possible to instal on the average one new CDOT RAX per day during 1988-89.

New Telephone exchanges are being opened in rural areas on a subsidized basis subject to a minimum demand of 10 being registered. It has been possible to open such exchanges within about 6 to 15 months of registration of the minimum demand. With the stepping up of the rate of providing rural exchanges, it is hoped to reduce this period to between 3 to 8 months.

Local Railway Trains on Howrah-Borgachia Section

406. SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to increase the local trains in the Howrah-Borgachia section;

(b) if so, when and the details thereof; and

(c) the number of trains at present running on the above section?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) 4 pairs.

Development of Duvvada Railway Station in Andhra Pradesh

407. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Board have approved the master plan to develop "DUVVADA" railway station in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the Master Plan and the amount sanctioned for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

Setting up of "Pension Adalats" by South Central Railways

408 SHRI GOPALA RAO RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the South Central Railways started "Pension Adalats" at various places;

(b) if so, what are the names of the places and the number of cases settled so far; and